ARIZONA NEW YEAR'S

HOW THE RECKLESS COWBOY CELE-BRATES THE DAY.

Ethibits His Skill In Roping Cattle. The Call to Dinner-Help Yourself From Ronsted Quarters of Beef. Dancing In the Evening.

Roughly lettered posters of wrapping paper for weeks had announced that a cowboy tournament and fiesta Mejicana would be held on New Year's day at Agua Caliente. Two races, each of four heats, have

been run in the morning, when the faint popping of a six shooter, supple-vented by a distant roar of "Grub! Oh, rub!" announces the hour for dinner. ectators and racers rush back to the

Back of one of the principal saloons, between it and the base of the moun-tain, a long trench has been dug and filled with mesquite wood, burned to clear, red coals. Over these coals, rest-Inlea with mesquite wood, burned to clear, red coals. Over these coals, rest-ing on well soaked green poles, quarters of beef have been roasting for the last 12 hours. These quarters are hung in the different verandas, and from them each man cuts such portion as seems good to him and retires to east it, to-eather with whatever provisions he may good to him and refree to eat it, to-gether with whatever provisions he may have brought with him, while in the burning sun of the plaza the Indians and dogs dispute for and gorge them-selves on the refuse. Soon there is a general movement to-ward a corral at the foot of the plaza, where the refuse.

ward a corral at the loot or the pinzi, where the principal business of the day, from a sporting standpoint, is to begin. For a week the founders of the feast have been collecting cattle suitable to their purpose, and the cottonwood pole corral is as full of them as it will hold.

corral is as full of them as it will hold. Twenty feet in front of the corrals a long line has been drawn in the sand, then an interval of 40 yards and anoth-er. A little to one side the timekeeper, watch in hand, sits on his horse. The first contestant, in this case a hand-some young Mexican, places himself with his back to the corral, and the fore hoofs of his pony just toeing the first line. first line.

The bars are lowered and a long legged red cow is allowed to escape. Across the space she runs like a grey-hound. The instant she crosses the sec-

legged red cow is allowed to escape. Across the space she runs like a grey-hound. The instant she crosses the sec-ond line the vaquero plunges in his big spurs and starts in pursuit, his riata whistling around his head. The cow points straight for a growth of scrub, as though she hew that no lariat could be thrown in such a place. The little horse gains on her rapidly. Before she has made more than a third of the dis-tance to her goal he is at her flying heels. Then the rope flies out so quick-ly that the eye can hardly follow it, but the cow makes a quick turn and gallops on, still free. The Mexican makes no second at-tempt. The loss of time canced by his first failure would prevent his winning the coveted prize. So be sulkily with-draws, and his place is taken by anoth-ex a gray bull is sent carcering across as a gray bull is sent carcering across the dead line. "Off fore foot," he cries as his pony springs forward. Then follows a quick cast, a couple of turns around the sad-dlehorn, and the horse braces back, tucking his head well down to keep it out of the way—while the bull, his flight suddenly arrested, turns a half somersault and lands on his back, caught by the leg his captor has named. Securing the line, the man dimounts and runs toward his prey as fast as his high heels will allow. It struggles fiercely, but the pony is far too well trained to let the bull rise, and, with a tightening of the lariat, neatly foils every attempt. The captured fore log is quickly made fast to a hind leg—'hog tied''-and then the cowboy holds up his hand to show that it is completed. The judges having pronounced that the anial is properly secured, the time the and hardly has it fallen when the strained of the great social featured and another man tries his skill. The twilight comes at last. Duck is soon followed by darkness in these lati-tudes, and hardly has it fallen when the opening of the great social feature of the day, the ball. The ballroom is the

soon followed by dirkness in these lat-tudes, and hardly has it fallen when the strains of rude music announce the opening of the great social feature of the day, the ball. The ballroom is the whole upper floor of the hotol. The walls are of rough adobe, the floor of unplaned planks. From the rafters of the flat roof hang all the lanterns that can be borrowed in the neighborhood-that is, within a radius of ten miles —and candles burn on bits of board stuck in the interstices of the sun balked brick of the walls. Benches of planks laid across boxes line three sides of the room. At one end of the hall, on a rough stage erected there, sit the mu-sicans. There are three of them, all Mexicans, one playing a squeaky fiddle, the other two guitars. All of them wear their hats and smoke crocked ciga-rettes of brown paper as they play. There are about 20 grins. many of

BIRDS OF PEACE IN WAR.

Messages from Our Warships. A series of most interesting experi. ments has been made during the past WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 five or six years with the pigeons at the Naval Academy. There has been no-appropriation for this work, and the loft has been conducted by private contributions from officers at the Naval Academy, and has been managed entirely by several officers and professors at Annapolis, who have given over their time and their labor in the most carefully, has had most to do with this work, and to him perhaps the greatest credit is due for the ultimate success of the scheme. Lieut, Austin M. Knight, United States Navy, and Edward W. Eberle have also devoted some time and attention to the question, and have published papers in the proceedings of the Naval Institute which have called the matter to the attention of the officers in the service, most of whom have through this means been shown the value of

the plan. During last Summer 18 pig-eons made a total of 110 flights. Lieutenant Knight writes concerning

them: "Let us consider the case of a fleet

entrusted with the defense of that part of our coast from Block Island to the capes of the Delaware. Whatever po-sition might be taken up by such a sition might be taken up by such a fleet, there would be thrown out many miles beyond it a line of light, swift vessels as scouts, and upon the rapid-ity with which these vessels could communicate with the inner line and with the shore would depend, in a large measure, the success of the de-fense. Suppose a vessel of this outer line to discover an enemy's fleet stand-ing to the westward; she would hasten ing to the westward; she would hasten toward the squadron of defense or totoward the squadron of defense or to-ward the nearest point of the coast from which it might be possible to communicate with the squadron with Washington and with the clites threat-ened, and if not overtaken by the enemy's cruiser or by a shell from a battleship, and if she did not break down, she would ultimately communi-cate the fact that at a certain time-already long past—the enemy's heet, of unknown strength, was standing in from some unknown point on the coast. Let us suppose now, that in-stead of hastening of herself she could from some unknown point on the coast. Let us suppose now, that in-stead of hastening off herself she could dispatch a number of pigeons, with the certainty that they would carry the news quite as surely as she could carry it, and far more quickly; and that then, holding the enemy in view, she could follow his movements, and from time to time send off new mes-sengers with particulars of his strength, his course, and his appar-ent intentions. It is not difficult to see the immense value of a system which promises the possibility of such service as this." In view of these facts it will be in-teresting to note some of the over-was

teresting to note some of the over-wa-ter possibilities of the homing-pigeons. ter possibilities of the homing-pigeons. They have been taught to regard a ship as their home, and thus their ser-vices can be utilized both ways; but their greatest usefulness for naval pur-poses will be the carrying of messages from ships to the shore. The dis-tance one of these birds will fiy over the water to the land is still uncer-tain; but it is thought to be about one hundred and fifty miles. During a series of experiments one bird was kept over three weeks in confinement on board a ship, and when liberated was some two hundred miles from its cote; yet it returned in good time and was some two hundred miles from its cote; yet it returned in good time and condition. This last was an import-ant experiment, inasmuch as it showed that homing-pigeons can be kept on board a ship for several weeks at a time; and yet retain their strength of wing and ability to find their way home. During the experiment very few birds were lost, which establishes the practical certainty of their mes-senger service. senger service.

In speed they are excelled only by the telegraph and the telephone. One hundred and fifty-one statute miles have been made in three hours and fifty minutes. In Belgium one bird covered a distance of two hundred and fitteen miles at the path of cover server. covered a distance of two nunared and fifteen miles at the rate of over seven-ty miles an hour. The average speed, however, is much lower than this; for-ty-five miles an hour, for short dis-tances, being usually considered good time. The messages are fastened to the

WASHINGTON.

THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, PA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26th, 1898. Gingerly as the War Investigating Commission handled Gen. Miles, who shocked them at the beginning of his testimony by declining to be sworn, he managed to say that much suffering in the Santiago campaign was the result of General Shafter's failure to obey orders; that the Commissary General was inefficient, and to twi ington of the desirability of the ser-vice. Prof. Marion, an instructor in studied the habits of homing rises. vored by the War Department, might pocket big profits. He, also, by his answer to several questions (he was not allowed to make a general statement) made it plain that the ignoring of his recommendations by the War Department had resulted in much un-Department has necessary suffering.

The trusts are to be directly repre-sented in the Cabinet. Mr. E. A. Hutchcock, of Missouri, now Ambas

sador to Russia, who was nominated to succeed Mr. Bliss as Secretary of the Interior, and confirmed by the Senate a few minutes before adjournment for the Christmas recess, is the head of the plate glass trust and a multi-millionaire.

The administration has decided that 50,000 more volunteers may safely be mustered out, and it will be done as fast as possible.

The Huli bill, which ought really to be known as the Alger-Corbin bill, for recognizing and increasing the regular army, has been reported favorably to the House by a strict party vote in the Military Commuttee. The five Democratic members of the Committee are opposed to the bill and will prepare and submit a bill of their own, which will be offered as a substitute.

The House Committee on Appro priations loses two of its members to furnish Governors for Texas and fo Pennsylvania. Before Congress ad-journed for the Christmas recess the Committee unanimously adopted res-olutions setting forth the esteem of the Committee for Hon. Joseph D. Sayers, Governor elect of Texas, and Hon. Wm. A. Stone, Governor-elect of Pernsylvania. The Sayers resolu-tion was one of the strongest ever adopted under similar circumstances He has been a member of the Committee for twelve years, during two of which he was its chairman, and has left a record that any man would be justified in being proud of.

Under the lattitude allowed in de-Under the latitude allowed in de-bate when the House is in Committee of the Whole, Representative Will-iams, of Mississippi, made a strong speech against the annexation of the Philippines, which he declared would be a mistake, whether viewed from a social, a polytical, or a material stand. social, a political, or a material stand-point. Frequent applause from his Democratic colleagues showed which way their sympathies were. After stating that the Islands should not be returned to Spain, Mr. Williams said : "I should leave the Islands where they were the day after Dewey's glori ous victory at Manila. I should haul down the American flag. I am for the flag for what it means, not for itself. It is nothing but a piece of bunting, and when some one an-nounces that it must not come down, I care not how high his station, he says something unworthy of himself and his country. The flag should come down, if it is right that it should do so, and the American people must pull it down. We would not let any other country do it."

Senator Butler, of North Carolina, has given notice of his intention to offer an amendment to the pension appropriation bill that will give Con-federate soldiers and sailors precisely the same status under the pension laws as those of the United States. Mr. McKinley's original proposal was



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Ex-Senator "Joe" Blackburn, who was in Washington when Congress adjourned for the noliday recess, said

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